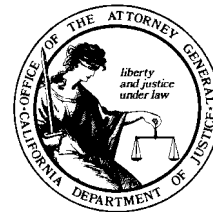




CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
BUREAU OF FORENSIC SERVICES
PHYSICAL EVIDENCE BULLETIN



URINE AS A SAMPLE FOR ALCOHOL DETERMINATION


INTRODUCTION: The degree of alcohol influence is based upon the amount of alcohol in the bloodstream. There is a direct correlation of alcohol in urine with alcohol in blood at a particular time. Therefore, urine can be used to determine a blood alcohol level. However, certain precautions must be taken.

SAMPLING: The following summarizes the important considerations in the collection and preservation of urine samples for alcohol analysis:

1. In urine alcohol cases a precaution is necessary that is not an element in blood sample cases. The subject must first empty his bladder (first void). After waiting at least 20 minutes, the analysis sample is collected. It is important to carefully note the time on sample label and sample envelope when voiding is done in each instance.
2. When urine is submitted for alcohol analysis, the sample taken after the first voiding should be forwarded to the laboratory. Even if a small amount of urine is collected (5cc or one teaspoon), it is sufficient for the determination of alcohol.
3. A member of the police agency, preferably the arresting officer, should supervise the collection of the sample so there will be no question as to the source or that tap water might have been placed in the sample jar.
4. Clean vials with tight fitting screw caps have been provided by the laboratory for collecting urine samples. A dry preservative has been added to the vials. The preservative is sodium fluoride (250 milligrams per ounce of urine).
5. Sample bottles shall be secured tightly, labeled with a BFS-40 (sample at right) and sealed in a urine envelope (BFS-21).

SUMMARY:

1. HAVE SUBJECT VOID. NOTE TIME.
2. THEN, AFTER 20 MINUTES, TAKE ACTUAL **SAMPLE** FOR ANALYSIS. NOTE TIME. (**SAMPLE** may be analyzed for drugs in addition to alcohol.)
3. SECURE CAPS TIGHTLY AND LABEL BOTTLES AND ENVELOPE CORRECTLY. INVERT SEVERAL TIMES TO MIX.

Lynn Peavy Co.
1-800-255-6499


CALIFORNIA DEPT. OF JUSTICE

SUBJECT'S NAME _____

INITIALS OF PERSON _____

DRAWING OF BLOOD/OR WITNESS TO URINE

DATE _____ TIME _____

WITNESSING OFFICER _____
BFS-40